Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light, a cross-country and alpine skiing program for individuals who have visual and mobile impairments, will hold its annual event in Deadwood, South Dakota, on January 25-29, 2004; and,

Whereas, The 2004 Ski for Light will mark the 25th Anniversary of this event to be held in the Black Hills of South Dakota at the Dear Mountain ski area, and will focus on the motto, "If I can do this, I can do anything!"; and,

Whereas, The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light offers all participants and guides a special time together and they often return year after year because of the lasting friendships that are established. Participation is anticipated to be the largest since its conception with attendees coming from across the United States, Canada and England; and,

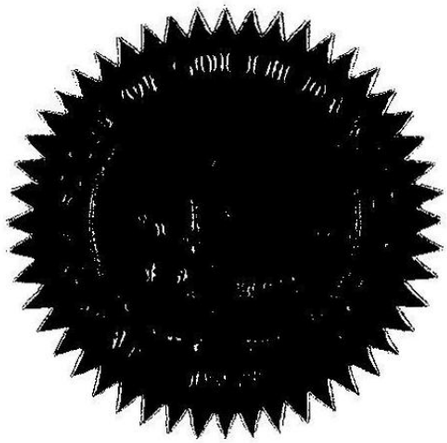
Whereas, Erling Stordahl, a Norwegian who was blind since the age of 12, is credited with starting this event in Beitostolen, Norway, and his friend, Olav Petersen, helped to bring the idea to America, specifically Colorado, in 1975, and a special commemorative medal has been designed with the American and Norwegian flags prominently displayed to honor their pioneering efforts and promote Norwegian-American relations; and,

Whereas, The Black Hills Regional Ski for Light offers an opportunity for those who enjoy cross-country and alpine skiing, the outdoors, and health through fitness to share their skills and enthusiasm with others:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 25-29, 2004, as

BLACK HILLS REGIONAL SKI FOR LIGHT WEEK

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State